Mullaperiyar dam dispute

1624. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre is not acting fast in resolving the dispute of Mullaperiyar Dam through deliberations with the State concerned;

(b) the number of times the Centre have held meeting with the States at higher level; and

(c) the present status of the case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): The Mullaperiyar dam was constructed during 1885-1895 across Periyar river in Kerala territory to be owned and operated by Government of Tamil Nadu under a 999 year lease agreement signed on 29.11.1886 between Maharaja of Travancore and Madras State. The Periyar Dam with full reservoir level of 152 ft. envisages diversion of water from the reservoir through a tunnel to Vaigai basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigation. By another agreement in 1970, Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power also.

2. In 1979, reports appeared in Kerala Press about damage to Periyar Dam. Government of Kerala asked Government of Tamil Nadu to take immediate steps to strengthen the dam. Chairman, CWC inspected the dam on 25.11.1979 and suggested certain strengthening measures. It was decided to keep the water level at 136ft. till the strengthening was done. Since then the water level had not been raised to 152 ft.

3. Some strengthening measures were carried out but no agreement on water level could be reached. Several Inter-State meetings at official level failed to resolve the issue.

4. The matter became subjudice with several petitions in the Kerala and Tamil Nadu High Courts. All these cases were transferred to the Supreme Court who heard the matter on 28.4.2000 and asked Minister (WR) to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers.

5. Minister(WR) convened the Inter-State meeting on 19.5.2000 and as decided in the meeting that an Expert Committee under Member

(D&R), CWC with representatives from both States was constituted to advice on the issue of raising of water level.

6. The Committee in its report of March, 2001 opined that the strengthening measures already implemented, the water level can be raised from 136 ft. to 142 ft. without endangering safety of dam. Further raising of water level to 152 ft. will be considered after balance strengthening measures are implemented.

7. The Report of the Expert Committee was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also sent to the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Court asked the two State Governments to file their response.

8. Supreme Court has given a judgement dated 27.2.2006 directing the water level of Mullaperiyar dam to be raised to EL 142 feet.

Completion of Sardar Sarovar Project

1625. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sarovar Project is a multi-purpose project which will benefit the four States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat by way of sharing of irrigation facilities and power generation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project is facing acute shortage of funds which is hampering the completion of 101 kms. stretch of Narmada Main Canal;

(c) whether the State has made a request to the Central Government for additional funds to ensure the completion of the project;

(d) if so, whether the request of the State Government have been acceded to; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Sardar Sarovar Project is an inter-state multi-purpose project on the river Narmada in Gujarat. It is a joint venture with sharing